

Remarks/Arguments

The Final Office Action mailed August 31, 2010 has been reviewed and carefully considered.

Claim 16 has been amended pursuant to the Examiner’s suggestion in the office action. Particularly, the term “in use” has been deleted in both instances. Claims 2, 4, 5, 8, 11, 13, 14 and 16 are now pending in this application. No new matter has been added.

Reconsideration of the above-identified application, as herein amended and in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested. Applicants note that amendments to independent claim 16 have been made in this response.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 2, 4, 5, 8, 11, 13, 14, and 16 stand rejected under U.S.C. §103(a) as purportedly being unpatentable over German Document DE 2410976 (hereinafter “German Document”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,558,085 to Hall (hereinafter ‘Hall’). This rejection is considered moot in view of the Examiner’s indication of allowability of independent claim 16.

Allowable Subject matter

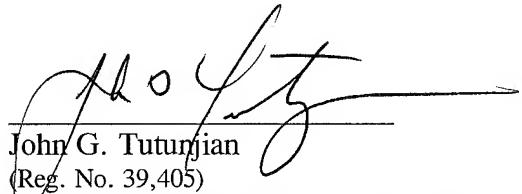
The Examiner has indicated that claim 16 would be allowable over the prior art if amended to delete both occurrences of the phrase “in use”. Claim 16 has been so amended and as such, applicant’s request early allowance on the merits.

Conclusion:

It is believed that no additional fees or charges are currently due. However, in the event that any additional fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the application, they may be charged to applicants' representatives Deposit Account No.50-1433.

Respectfully submitted,

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